

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 48

## AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.  
Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—THE BIG BO. NANA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lewis, Mrs. J. J. L. L.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.  
No. 201 Bowery.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

LYCUM THEATRE.  
Fourth street and Sixth avenue.—OFF THE LINE and THE DOUGHER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. J. L. L.

BRANT'S OPERA HOUSE.  
West Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M. Dan Bryant.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.  
VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

GERMANIA THEATRE.  
Broadway.—FAMILE HOENNER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

PARK THEATRE.  
Broadway.—French Opera House.—GIROFLE-GIROFLA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

NIBLO'S.  
Broadway.—THE OCTOON, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Edwin F. Thorne.

COLO-SRUM.  
Broadway and Third-fourth street.—PARIS BY NIGHT, at 8 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.  
corner of Third street and Sixth avenue.—HENRY V., at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.  
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.  
Sixteenth street.—BEGONS DULL CARE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Macabre.

ACADEMY OF DESIGN.  
corner of Twenty-third street and Fourth avenue.—EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOR PAINTING. Open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. and from 6 P. M. to 9 P. M.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.  
Broadway.—THE SHAUGHRAUN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Macabre.

STEWART HALL.  
Fourth street.—DRAMATIC RECITALS. Miss Jennie Hotchkiss.

WOODS MUSEUM.  
Broadway, corner of Third street.—MARKED FOR LIFE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

TYOLI THEATRE.  
Eight street, between Second and Third avenues.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

BROOKLYN THEATRE.  
Washington street.—THE GENVA CROSS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Frank Roche, Mrs. F. S. Con-way.

STADI THEATRE.  
Bowery.—THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, at 8 P. M. Miss Lina Mayr.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.  
No. 624 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.  
Twenty-sixth street and Fourth avenue.—Afternoon and evening, at 2 and 8.

THEATRE CONIQUE.  
No. 514 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be cloudy.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were generally lower and business without feature. Foreign exchange was steady. Gold advanced to 115½.

THE BOARD OF SURGEONS was re-established yesterday by the Commissioners of Police, under conditions which are elsewhere explained.

THE CONDITION OF THE STREET HYDRANTS causes alarm. A noticeable improvement has taken place in the navigation of the river, but the Sound is still frozen fast.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION yesterday elected Mr. Forrest President for the year, and urged upon the Legislature the necessity of relieving the financial embarrassments of the Commission.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION of Connecticut yesterday renominated, by acclamation, Governor Ingersoll and the whole State ticket, and we have no doubt that his party depends upon the administration at Washington to assist in his election.

THE BECHER CASE.—A new feature was introduced into the Becher trial yesterday—the production of a witness who testified to having seen what may be considered impropriety between the defendant and Mrs. Tilton. The rest of the day was occupied in the cross-examination of the plaintiff.

SOUTH AMERICA.—Our news from South America is, on the whole, favorable. Peace may be said to be restored in Peru. The unprovoked outrage committed at Aspinwall on Dr. Pigott has excited great indignation, but as he is a British citizen he is certain to receive full reparation.

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS YESTERDAY.—The speech of Mr. Sargent on Louisiana matters, partly delivered on Monday, was concluded yesterday in the Senate; but was received with what may almost be called perfect indifference by the few auditors assembled. The House passed the bill reorganizing the entire Treasury Department by changing the salaries of the officials and defining some of their duties and functions anew, and an effort was made to continue the consideration of the Revenue bill, but was not successful. This is supposed to preface the failure of the measure, which may cause the necessity of an extra session of Congress. The Conference Committee's report on the bill to confirm the lease of lands made by the Seneca Indians and to legalize future transactions of the same kind was agreed to by both houses.

## The Resignation of Grant—its Practical Value.

The question of President Grant's resignation we mean to press earnestly, with little hope that he who alone can answer it affirmatively will now do so, until we extort, as we did in the matter of Cæsarism, at which so many jeered, a response from the American people which shall make itself felt. Though the process of conviction may be dilatory we do not wholly despair of satisfying the President himself that such a step will be the best for him. We should have no doubt of this, for some generous instincts are still stirring in his soldier heart, if he were but once free from the companionship, high and low, which environs him and forms the intrenchment which honest public opinion has not yet stormed. It is very clear that among the infirmities of President Grant's once noble nature is an ambition to be something or to do something entirely different from his predecessors; to be spoken of now and written of hereafter as having left the rut of precedent, however sacred, and hewed out a path for himself. None but himself is to be his parallel. This is noticeable in small things as well as great. No President before ever appointed multitudinous relations to lucrative offices. Washington, that obsolete exemplar, refused to make his nephew, whom he loved, and who was worthy of his love, District Attorney at Alexandria; and this because he was his nephew. What our incumbent of to-day has done and continues to do we all know and need not repeat. No President before ever accepted presents or paid visits or went junketing about the country with a class of privileged pets. No President before sought an increase of salary. So it is in greater and graver things. No one of his seventeen predecessors ever dreamed of or suggested the acquisition of a distant insular territory or colony; for the Alaska folly is hardly an exception. The recently published diary of Mr. Adams, when Secretary of State, shows that this very subject was considered in Mr. Monroe's administration and decided negatively, on the distinct ground of the want of constitutional capacity. This seemed to President Grant the chief inducement to covet St. Domingo, and not only to covet it but to urge it upon a Congress which he thought subservient by means which, desiring to be deferential, we forbear to describe. So with the third term idea. He clutched at it the more greedily because of the adverse tradition, because there had never been a third term President before. It was, we do him the justice to believe, less the greed of office, though that no doubt was operative; less the *vis inertia* which with some natures makes lucrative incumbency so sweet, than it was the ambition to be what no President had ever been before. It is very odd to note how such ambitious specialties (if we may so term them) possess cognate natures. The President's cherished friend, Senator Cameron, showed this in his desire to have his own son as his colleague. Father and son had been Senators successively, but never father and son simultaneously. This was a more amiable motive than the President's, but they are generally the same.

This, then, being the peculiarity, the strength or the weakness of our President's nature, the craving of this sort of distinction, the moral of it all, on this matter of resignation, is obvious enough. Why not be the only President who ever voluntarily resigned, or, if imperial phrase be more agreeable, like Dicoletian and Charles V., "abdicated?" It would make a mark in history deeper and brighter than success in any or all his other ambitions could have done. It would be picturesque and heroic—one of those great deeds of self-abnegation on which the student of our story will love to meditate. The record of it would be better than the familiar narrative which schoolboys used to be made to read out of "Doctor Robertson" of what occurred in Brussels centuries ago. It would be the conclusive answer to all the calumnies, as they would then seem to be, imputing to him selfishness and mercenary impulses.

If these views—entirely personal—have any force, so far as the President's fame is affected, it diminishes with every moment of delay. Now is the accepted time. It would have been better, or at least more graceful, before the political revolution of last autumn; but better now than six or three months hence, with an adverse House of Representatives, damaging investigations, possible impeachment, of the initiation of which, be it remembered, the House is the exclusive judge; the certain loss of more State legislatures, the shrinkage of a friendly majority in the Senate, and a Supreme Court of his own creating turning its cold shoulder. Now, or before these things actual or potential are realized, the President has it in his power to act. Then it may be, we don't say it will be, too late, for better late than never. A resignation now would be a new and marked feature in the working of our constitutional system. It would be the assertion or confession of a new responsibility in our public servants—a responsibility to popular opinion when manifested in so decisive a form as it was last fall. No Ministry in England resists even a Parliamentary vote of "want of confidence." Generally no Minister waits for it. If ever the great popular constituency of the United States has proclaimed utter and absolute "want of confidence" in an administration it has done so now. The echoes are repeating themselves everywhere. Why, then, not listen to it, why not yield to it, and set the great precedent of obedience even to the extent of self-sacrifice to the popular will?

Now or soon is the hour, for another reason, to which time and again we have alluded in the discussion of this subject. It is better, far better, to hand over the sceptre, barren as it may be, to a friend of his own political faith than to have it wrenched away, as it is sure to be, by the unkind hand of a resentful democracy. Such a transfer is desirable so long as the parties continue friendly, as they are now to a great extent. No word of personal unkindness has escaped the Vice President's lips. They sat at the same love-feast the other night at Philadelphia. There is no telling how long this state of things may last. Vice President Wilson's patience may be exhausted. He is too loyal and grateful a republican, his fame is too closely connected with that great party, to be willing to see it shipwrecked by a pilot who

will not take counsel or heed warning. His Springfield letter showed that the chain which binds him to the President as the leader of the republican party is beginning to chafe. If it snaps there is no smitery that can weld it together again. In a merely selfish point of view the succession of Henry Wilson, while a friend, by the voluntary act of Grant would not be without its fruits. Not only might the trustworthy members of the Cabinet be retained, but the new President could keep in office at least some of his predecessors' family without reproach. We are confident he would appoint none of his own. That such an arrangement would save the republican party and give peace to the country from one end to the other we have said over and over again and religiously believe. It would in giving peace disarm all opposition. It would reanimate the best feeling in the South, and who better than Henry Wilson could reconcile the North to measures of pacification of his devising? It would relegate the soldier to his proper position as necessary for unlikely emergencies and not our daily police intermediary.

In conclusion let us say—and the retrospect is not a fanciful one—that there have been times before, within the bitter memory of most of us, when a Presidential resignation would have been a blessing undisguised. Had Franklin Pierce resigned before the Kansas-Nebraska crime was committed and handed the executive trust to a veteran, conservative, sound statesman like William R. King or the President of the Senate, the Missouri line would never have been disturbed and the chapter of that day's woes not been opened. If, in the fall of 1860, after the people had pronounced against him, Mr. Buchanan had gone back to Wheatland, his later days would have been happier, and though John C. Breckinridge became ultimately a Confederate soldier and a brave one, no one can doubt that the frustrated Crittenden compromise would have had a better chance with a Kentucky President, commanding the confidence of the South, and the agony of the impending future might have been averted. Those were, we concede, abnormal and exceptional epochs; so, in a different degree, is this of ours, and the remedy which then might have failed is sure to succeed now.

## The Transit of Venus.

The full report of the American astronomical expedition, under the direction of Professor Hall, which we print to-day, is rich in scientific facts and general interest. We give with it sixteen diagrams showing different periods of the transit of Venus as observed from Vladivostok. Professor Hall's party observed a slight ligament, a fact which contrasts strongly with the observations made at Sydney, where the sun was almost in the zenith and the sky was perfectly clear. There no ligament or black drop was apparent. This would indicate that where there are clear air and perfect appliances there is no interruption of the solar rays nor any disturbance which makes the air opaque to very thin beams of sunlight.

The value of photography in astronomical observations of such distant phenomena will be tested by these experiments. It is probably unreliable. The mathematical calculation of the angular distance between the transit lines from stations in the northern and southern hemispheres will prove far more accurate than the plan of measuring it by photographs. This opinion is no disparagement of the photographic operations of the expeditions, for the pictures will be of great value in future speculations on the phenomena of irradiation and may result in the invention of faultless instruments. The data accumulated by the photographs will be useful to the astronomer of future times, upon whom will devolve the colossal task of summing up the calculations and results obtained in all parts of the world, just as the data of 1761-9 were invaluable to Stone, who scrutinized the labors of the expeditions of the last century, and was the first to discover the mistake of three millions of miles in the estimate of the sun's distance from the earth.

## The Boucicault Injunction Granted.

The preliminary case between Messrs. Boucicault and Hart has been decided by Judge Woodruff upon legal principles, and upon the grounds of common equity, which we have asserted from the first. The decision confirms all that Mr. Boucicault has claimed. Eight scenes of Mr. Hart's play are declared to be taken from the "Shaughraun." Mr. Boucicault's copyright in them is declared to be perfect under the statute, and Mr. Hart is restrained by an order of the Court from continuing their performance. This injunction, which is so important to dramatic writers, is elsewhere published. It is probable that many persons do not fully understand the nature of an injunction. It is a power vested in a judge, during the progress of a suit, to command one of the parties to desist from doing that of which the other complains. In all cases, however, in which such orders are issued, the judge will, nevertheless, require the complainant to be responsible for any damages that may arise if the defendant should be wrongfully enjoined. This is a technicality of the law, and Mr. Boucicault will now proceed with his suit for damages, which he lays at twenty-five thousand dollars, and which will determine some important questions of copyright, and throw light upon many curious matters connected with the stage.

TRINITY CHURCH yesterday witnessed a touching sight—three brothers laid to rest from the cares and troubles of life. They were old men, and it had been vouchsafed to them that by some mystic sympathy death came to all three within a few hours of each other.

THE CANCAN.—The jury in the cancan case could not agree upon the merits of the case and were yesterday discharged by the Court. Some of the jurors apparently were the pure to whom "all things are pure," and could see no evil in the celebrated dance. The testimony of the young ladies, who said that they knew of nothing improper in the exhibition, had a profound effect upon the jury, and as experts their views were entitled to great weight. The question, however, which Recorder Hackett laid before the jury remains undecided, and the cancan dancer, with a graceful movement of her skilful toe, has knocked the hat from the head of astonished Justice.

## Persecuting Poor Bergh.

It is painfully evident that that body of law which the future will know as Mr. Bergh's code is inadequate to the occasions of the society for the invention of offences against animals and its Torquemada. In fact, this great Panjandrum has left himself uncovered at several points, and his ingenious enemy, the public, is in a fair way to find all the joints of his legal armor and to pierce him savagely, of course. This fact appears in the course taken by the Grand Jury in calling to the attention of the Court the fact that an undue and improper pressure had been exercised upon their deliberations by the only wise, just, pure and virtuous man in this or any other community.

But the friends of virtue and dogs and cats; the believers in the champion of tortured turtles and defender of impolitely handled hogs need be under no apprehension. Bergh is not to be sat upon by a grand jury and not to have his head diminished by the learned judge. He will come out with the useful experience that has taught him what further legislation he needs. Hitherto he has wanted only this knowledge. As the operations of his society proved defective for want of authority he has made his short trip to Albany, secured an additional statute covering the doubtful point and returned to the charge. This incident of the Grand Jury indicates the direction of further operations of this nature.

He needs first a law defining his relation to grand juries. This statute should provide that Mr. Bergh as the great Panjandrum of the society for minding other people's business, and all his associates or persons designated by him, shall be exempted from the operations of all statutes or constitutional provisions or rulings of the common law in virtue of which the Grand Jury is protected in its special function as the sole and only inquisitorial body under our political system. It should make it a misdemeanor for any grand jury man to be guilty of the gross impertinence of having an opinion of his own on any subject whatever upon which the contrary opinion of Mr. Bergh has been brought to his notice or is publicly known. In fact, this statute might broadly provide the subordination of the Grand Jury to the Grand Inquisitor. Another law should designate the exact penalties for that grievous offence now first known to our law—the failure to sympathize with Mr. Bergh in his noble and philanthropic enterprises. This law should strike both those who do not admire Bergh and those who publicly or privately express their sympathy with the poor wretches whom he gets "mewed up in prison walls" for saving their lives or eyes from cats. In virtue of a little statute like this of about twenty lines Bergh would be censor of the press, and that would make him supremely happy. It is strange he has not secured such a law already.

Another statute should settle in general terms the great point in regard to good intentions. It should determine, once for all, that everything that Mr. Bergh does or proposes to do is right, and must and shall necessarily lead to good results. Much of the trouble in the world arises from the way people have of considering good men like Mr. Bergh fanatics. There are persons who argue that it is as proper to make a dog work as a horse, and that Mr. Bergh in preventing it only uses the law to give effect to his own opinions. People say that all the persecutions, the burnings and roastings of religious wars, the butcheries of the Spaniards, the English, the French, in the Middle Ages, were all contrived and intended to make men better and more amenable to the right. In short, to take the "cussedness" out of humanity; and they say that while Bergh's intentions are equally good his procedure is at least equally objectionable.

Such a law as we propose above would end all that and leave no longer any room to doubt as to the full propriety and satisfactory consequences of any of the acts of this admirable man.

## John Mitchell and Dr. Kenaly.

The election of Andrew Johnson to the United States Senate has found parallels in the elections of John Mitchell and Dr. Kenaly to the British Parliament. These events will cause great excitement in England, and the election of Mr. Mitchell will command attention everywhere, as it involves constitutional questions of deep importance. Dr. Kenaly, who is so well known as the counsel for the claimant in the Tichborne case, was chosen yesterday from Stoke-on-Trent by a majority of two thousand—an unexpected victory for a man who has so lately been driven out of his profession; but Mr. Mitchell's triumph is far more startling. Dr. Kenaly has sought from the people a vindication from the accusations of his fellow barristers; but Mitchell has appealed against the sentence of the Crown itself. His election to the House of Commons from Tipperary, without opposition, appears to be understood by the government as a defiance, and it was promptly met yesterday. Mr. Dyke moved in the House for copies of all the documents connected with the trial and conviction of John Mitchell in 1848, and with his escape from Van Dieman's Land. This motion was adopted by a vote of 174 to 13, and the debate shows that the government is determined to regard him as an escaped felon, and to deny on that ground his eligibility to election. In execution of this policy Mr. Disraeli announced that he will move to-morrow that a new writ of election be ordered for Tipperary county. Both cases are singular examples of the way the whirligig of time brings about its reverses, and their progress will be watched with as much interest in America as in Ireland or England.

THE ICE BLOCKADE.—From present appearances we might be almost justified in predicting the near discovery of the North Pole. Either it has become tired of its isolation or curious as to the condition of life of the countrymen of Kane and Hayes, and is resolved to visit us. The descriptions which we print in another column of the condition of our coasts and harbors are unpleasantly suggestive of the experience of Arctic discoverers—ships imprisoned in fields of ice, sailors making expeditions from their blockaded ships to the city of Boston and acting generally very much as if they were in the land of the Esquimaux. In other localities floating icebergs render navigation perilous. The only persons who regard the present state of things with satisfaction are the skaters, who have certainly full opportunity to enjoy themselves.

## The Louisiana Reports.

While awaiting the official report of that part of the committee of Congress which was last in New Orleans the public will be glad to learn from an authentic source what view is taken of the evidence by the Louisiana conservatives. This rational curiosity will be satisfied by the letter which we print this morning from Mr. Zacharie, who served as chairman of the Conservative Committee before the Returning Board and also before both of the sub-committees of investigation. No other gentleman on the conservative side has had such opportunities to be perfectly well informed or can speak with so much authority as a representative of that side. Mr. Zacharie's clear statement will assist the public judgment in its estimate of the forthcoming official report. We will refer particularly to only two or three of his points, which we prefer to notice in a different order from that in which they stand in his letter.

We first call attention to Mr. Zacharie's statement as to General Sheridan's participation in the events of January 4, when the five conservative members were dragged out of the Legislature. General Badger, the Superintendent of Police, testified on cross-examination that Sheridan, through Emory, by means of the police telegraph, gave the orders and instructions on which De Trobriand acted on that occasion. This testimony, if true, proves that President Grant was either insincere or misinformed in that part of his Louisiana Message where he stated that Sheridan had nothing to do with the transactions of the day. Mr. Zacharie asserts that a strong effort was made to induce the last sub-committee to take testimony on this point and that they refused, by a tie vote, to go into the investigation. There is really no point on which it was more important to learn the truth, but the friends of Grant and Sheridan on the committee were too wary to take the risk of bringing out awkward facts.

Another striking point in Mr. Zacharie's letter relates to the charge of intimidation in the election of 1874. He declares that there was no other evidence to support the charge than mere impressions and hearsay by persons who were either State officers under Kellogg or federal officers under Grant. Finding facts scarce they fell back upon the Colfax and Coushatta massacres, trying to make out by inference from those horrors that they must have had an intimidating effect on black voters. Mr. Zacharie explodes this inference by showing that more blacks than whites were registered and voted in proportion to their respective numbers, as given by the census, in the parishes where Colfax and Coushatta are situated.

Another noteworthy point in Mr. Zacharie's communication is his strong assertion that there is no republican government in Louisiana, and that it is the duty of Congress to fulfil the federal guarantee. Herein, as well as on the subject of compromise, he holds the same views which have been consistently maintained by the HERALD, proving that we have more faithfully represented the conservative sentiment of Louisiana than the democratic organs of the North.

## The Costigan Bill and Mr. Green.

As will be seen by our Albany correspondence to-day there exists a strong feeling that the Costigan bill will be defeated, owing to difficulties between Tammany and the authorities at the Capitol. The Evening Post comments upon the course of the HERALD in the matter of this Costigan bill, saying that our main purpose is to force Mr. Green to retire from the Comptrolership. This is true in one respect. We think Mr. Green's retention in office is a violation of the compact virtually made between Tammany Hall and the people at the last election. In that point alone Mr. Green cannot be retained, except by a moral breach of faith. It is also a curse and a burden to the city. The Comptrolership's policy is to stifle the metropolis, which Sweeney and Tweed robbed. He piles debt upon debt, and is the minister of obstruction and misgovernment. We are in favor of his removal just as we favor the removal of any officer who fails to minister to the public welfare or to retain public esteem. If a bill is necessary to secure the result we would support a bill. The Costigan measure was a good deal more to us than a menace to Mr. Green. We supported it because it opened a new policy and the prospect of better government. It promised us home rule and would have put an end to the shameful policy which has from year to year regarded New York as a rich place to be robbed by Albany thieves. This is the reason why we supported the Costigan bill. Mr. Green's fortunes have nothing to do with it. But if the bill would destroy the present system and at the same time rid us of Mr. Green we shall regard its defeat as doubly unfortunate.

## Political Sentiments of a Soldier.

The passage we printed yesterday from the speech of General Burnside, the Senator elect from Rhode Island, is admirable in temper and spirit, and indicates that the new Senator intends to act with the moderate republicans, of whom Vice President Wilson and Speaker Blaine are the leading New England representatives. General Burnside thinks the Southern people, and especially that part of them who served in the Confederate army, should be treated with generous confidence. He stands on the same ground which our most illustrious soldiers occupied at the close of the war, before some of them became warped by politics. General Grant's honorable opposition to measures for punishing Lee or any part of his army for treason after receiving their paroles, and General Sherman's attempt to end political hostility and persecution as soon as military operations had ceased, betokened a sentiment which was widely shared by our army. We rejoice that Senator Burnside's soldierly instincts have not been perverted by party politics, and that he will go into the Senate as a strong advocate of kindness and conciliation. He sees nothing alarming in the election of ex-Confederate officers to positions in the federal government, maintains that their loyalty can be safely trusted, and declares that "the people are anxiously impatient to see all the States of the Union under the supervision of their own properly constituted authorities." This certainly is not Grantism, and it may be accepted as a fresh proof that Grantism has had its day among the New England republicans.

## Rapid Transit—Shall It Be Accomplished by Private Capital?

It is very desirable that steam communication between the lower and upper parts of this island be supplied by private enterprise and not done by the city. While it would be better to have it at the expense of the city than not to have it at all, rapid transit could be pushed through by private enterprise with greater energy, in a briefer period, and at a smaller cost by a company of capitalists, and, as the expense must ultimately be reimbursed out of the pockets of people who use the roads, economical construction is the proper basis of low fares. The mass of the community is taking a deep interest in rapid transit; but, unfortunately, our heavy capitalists hang back in apathy, although steam roads would so much enhance the value of their property. This regrettable languor on the part of citizens who ought to be most alive to the importance of the work tends to a conviction that the city will finally have to build it, in obedience to a strong public sentiment of its necessity. As soon as the mass of our citizens shall be convinced that nothing is to be hoped from private capitalists a resistless cry will go up for the construction of the work by the Corporation in spite of the drawbacks and the possible jobbery with which such improvements are beset when the watchful eyes of private owners are not kept upon the expenditure of money.

We sincerely trust that public sentiment may not be driven to such an alternative. But if it should at last come to that the people will decide that steam roads must be built as a necessary public highway. It is conceded by the best judges that there is no constitutional obstacle to this method, and as the Croton water works and the Central Park were constructed by the city without any scandalous jobs the people will insist on another experiment in the same direction, with all its hazards, if they become convinced that there is no other way of securing so indispensable an improvement. The heavy capitalists and taxpayers will suffer most from the waste, extravagance and jobbing that might attend the prosecution of the work by the city, and we warn them in their own interest of what will undoubtedly come, at no distant period, unless they rise out of their indifference and bestir themselves in favor of a work which is so urgently demanded by popular sentiment and by public and private interests.

THE QUESTION is whether Fifth avenue will be paved or plastered. If any of our readers believe in asphalt or other chemical compositions let them study the Reservoir Park, the Worth Monument vicinity and other experiments in pavement chemistry. They will see how useless it would be to cover our noble Fifth avenue with this brittle preparation. They will also see that none will give as much satisfaction as the fine old Macadam pavement, which has been tried on a thousand occasions and never failed. The question between asphalt and Macadam is between a pavement that never failed and one that has never succeeded.

THE CENTENNIAL.—The facts which show the value of Centennial Exhibition stock as an investment are set forth to-day, and especially the value which the celebration will be to New York manufactures and commerce. We are glad to know that a committee of ladies will be organized in New York to aid in making the celebration a national success.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mrs. Albani will sail for Europe to-day in the steamship *Abyssinia*. General F. J. Herron, of Louisiana, is residing at the St. Nicholas Hotel. As the Cabinet is so shockingly out of repair a Carpenter would be useful. Mr. John W. Forney, Jr., of Philadelphia, is staying at the Westminster Hotel. Sir John Swinburne, of England, has taken up his residence at the Glisley House. Governor Henry Howard, of Rhode Island, has apartments at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Ex-Senator James W. Patterson, of New Hampshire, is registered at the Glisley House. Mr. George W. Riggs, the Washington banker, arrived last evening at the Brevoort House. General W. C. Wickham and Mr. John Echols, of Virginia, are sojourning at the St. Nicholas Hotel. Is Mr. Bergh aware that "care killed a cat," and does he intend to inquire into the circumstances? Mr. Smith M. Weed, of Plattburgh, N. Y., is among the late arrivals at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

That publication of the speech the speaker made in the caucus is worse than a chili-blaine for Grant. Assistant Adjutant General J. B. Stonehouse arrived at the Hotel Brunswick yesterday from Albany.

"Dear Tom—Come immediately if you see this. If not, come on Sunday." This doubtful invitation appears as a personal in the London *Times*. Baron de Schœner, the Austrian Minister, has sailed from Yokohama for Siam, to which country, as well as China and Japan, he is accredited.

Ex-Governor William Chidlin and family, of Massachusetts, are at the Windsor Hotel. They will sail for Europe to-day in the steamship *Abyssinia*.

Hon. G. F. Seward, United States Consul General at Shanghai, has been offered a Danish decoration in token of friendly services rendered to Denmark.

Carpenter would certainly make a better Attorney General than Williams, especially if things were managed so that he would not get too "degenerately short."

If Israel should withdraw from the leadership of his party it is thought that Sir Stafford Northcote would lead the House, though his claim would be disputed on behalf of Mr. Gathorne Hardy.

The statement published in some of the newspapers that Miss Anna E. Dickinson will shortly make her appearance on the stage, in the character of Joan of Arc, is without foundation, that lady having no such purpose.

"I will vote for the dissolution of the Assembly sooner than for the organization of the government in a republican form." So said, recently, the Duke D'Audiffert-Pasquier. In the election that would follow dissolution his party may have a chance; in the other contingency it certainly would have none.

"Although my husband," says a Paris lady, "is a fierce conservative, I am for the provisional; for while this lasts the republicans will always prove the republic, and that will always be voted down; and whenever there is such a vote my husband is so delighted that I can always get him to give me jewelry."

The British Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is of opinion that vivisection "should be dealt with cautiously." So it answers a petition that it take steps to have this resource of science not suppressed, but regulated. Sir William Ferguson, Mr. Tennyson and Mr. Carlyle were among the signers of the petition.

There was a man yelped Bill King And Congress said to go him— He climbed up to the chimney top And then they thought they'd nab him; But he jumped down on the other side And then they couldn't find him. He ran fourteen miles in fifteen days And never looked behind him.